

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system in communication with a network comprising one or more network components comprising:

a manager in communication with the network components having application processes residing on the network components; and

an interface process in communication with the manager and the network components, wherein the interface process performs:

obtaining information on the network components from the manager;

maintaining a rules file having at least one rule for each of the network components, wherein each rule identifies the network component to be managed, one of a plurality of communication interface types, and a parameter name, wherein the parameter name is used with the communication interface type to invoke the application process residing on the network component;

displaying information representing the network components;

receiving selection of one displayed network component;

accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component;

displaying information on the at least one determined application process residing on the selected network component, wherein at least one of the determined application processes ~~reside~~ resides on the selected network component;

receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes residing on the selected network component;

accessing the rule from the rules file for the selected application process to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface type and parameter name supported by the application process to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; and

launching the selected application process on the selected network component using the determined communication interface type and parameter name from the rules file.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a graphical output device coupled to the interface process for displaying one or more graphical objects representing the application processes on the network components, wherein the interface process is coupled to the graphical output device for effecting the display of the graphical objects on the graphical output device.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the interface process responds to selection of one of the objects representing one application process by effecting execution of the application process represented by that object.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a store containing information regarding one or more network components and one or more application processes residing on the network components.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the interface process accesses the store, upon selection of one graphical object representing one of the network components, to identify at least one application process residing on the selected network component represented by the selected object.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the application process is any of an executable application, a web-based browser application, a telnet session, or an SNMP application.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the information on the network components includes an identifier for the network component and the application processes residing on the network components.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein at least one of the graphical objects representing one network component provides a textual description of that network component.

10-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A network, comprising:
network components, wherein application processes reside on the network components and configure and manage the network components in which the application processes execute;
a manager system in communication with the network components;
an interface process in communication with the manager and the network components, wherein the interface process performs:
obtaining information on the network components from the manager;
maintaining a rules file having at least one rule for each of the network components, wherein each rule identifies the network component to be managed, one of a plurality of communication interface types, and a parameter name, wherein the parameter name is used with the communication interface type to invoke the application process residing on the network component;
displaying information representing the network components;
receiving selection of one displayed network component;
accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component;
displaying information on the at least one determined application process residing on the selected network component, wherein at least one of the determined application processes ~~reside~~ resides on the selected network component;
receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes residing on the selected network component;
accessing the rule from the rules file for the selected application process to determine information on the selected application process and the communication

interface type and parameter name supported by the application process to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; and

launching the selected application process on the selected network component using the determined communication interface type and parameter name from the rules file.

22. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 21, wherein the manager system further includes:

a graphical output device coupled to the interface process for displaying one or more graphical objects representing the application processes on the network components, wherein the interface process is coupled to the graphical output device for effecting the display of the graphical objects on the graphical output device.

23. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 22, wherein the interface process responds to selection of one of the objects representing one application process by effecting execution of the application process represented by that object.

24. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
using a manager to communicate with network components in a network, wherein application processes reside on the network components, wherein the application processes configure and manage the network components in which the application processes execute; and
using an interface process to communicate with the manager and the network components, a switching fabric component, and the hosts; and
using the interface process to perform operations comprising:

obtaining information on the network components from the manager;

maintaining a rules having at least one rule for each of the network components, wherein each rule identifies the network component to be managed, one of a plurality of communication interface types, and a parameter name, wherein the parameter name is used with the communication interface type to invoke the file application process residing on the network component;

displaying information representing the network components;

receiving selection of one displayed network component;
accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component;
displaying information on the at least one determined application process residing on the selected network component, wherein at least one of the determined application processes ~~reside~~ resides on the selected network component;
receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes residing on the selected network component;
accessing the rule from the rules file for the selected application process to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface type and parameter name supported by the application process to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; and
launching the selected application process on the selected network component using the determined communication interface type and parameter name from the rules file.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
using the interface process to effect display of one or more graphical objects representing the application processes on the network components.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
selecting one of the objects representing one application process to cause the interface process to effect execution of the application process represented by that object.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
providing in a store information regarding one or more network components and one or more application processes residing on the network components.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the information on the network components includes an identifier for the network components and application processes residing on the network components.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
selecting one graphical object representing one network component to effect the interface process to access the store to identify at least one application process residing on the network component represented by the selected object.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the application process is any of an executable application, a web-based browser application, a telnet session, or an SNMP application.

31. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable storage medium including a program executed by a manager system in communication with network components in a network, wherein application processes reside on the network components, wherein the application processes configure and manage the network components in which the application processes execute, comprising:

- a manager communicating with the network components; and
- an interface process in communication with the manager and the network components, wherein the interface process performs:
 - obtaining information on the network components from the manager;
 - maintaining a rules file having at least one rule for each of the network components, wherein each rule identifies the network component to be managed, one of a plurality of communication interface types, and a parameter name, wherein the parameter name is used with the communication interface type to invoke the application process residing on the network component;
 - displaying information representing the network components;
 - receiving selection of one displayed network component;
 - accessing the rules file to determine at least one application process associated with the selected network component;
 - displaying information on the at least one determined application process residing on the selected network component, wherein at least one of the determined application processes ~~reside~~ resides on the selected network component;

receiving selection of one of the displayed application processes residing on the selected network component;

accessing the rule from the rules file for the selected application process to determine information on the selected application process and the communication interface type and parameter name supported by the application process to use to launch the selected application process on the selected network component; and

launching the selected application process on the selected network component using the determined communication interface type and parameter name from the rules file.

32. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the interface process is coupled to a graphical output device and further performs:

displaying one or more graphical objects on the graphical output device representing the application processes on the network components.

33. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the interface process responds to selection of one of the objects representing one application process by effecting execution of the application process represented by that object.

34. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 33, wherein the program is executed to further perform operations comprising:

communicating with a store containing information regarding one or more network components and one or more application processes residing on the network components.

35. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the interface process accesses the store, upon selection of one graphical object representing one of the network components, to identify at least one application process residing on the selected network component represented by the selected object.

36. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the information on the network components includes an identifier for the application processes residing on the network components.

37. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the application process is any of an executable application, a web-based browser application, a telnet session, or an SNMP application.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the information in the rules file for at least one network component is obtained from an operator administrator and the information in the rules file for at least one other network component is obtained via standardized queries of the at least one other network component.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein displaying information on the at least one determined application process comprises:

displaying information on a plurality of application processes residing on the selected network component to enable selection of one of the application processes on the selected network component to launch..

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the network components comprise hosts, storage devices, and at least one switching fabric, wherein the manager communicates with the hosts and storage devices via the at least one switching fabrics.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the parameter name comprises an address used to communicate with the network component to invoke the application process.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the parameter name comprises an executable name of the application process residing on the network component.

43. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 21, wherein the parameter name comprises an address used to communicate with the network component to invoke the application process.

44. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 21, wherein the parameter name comprises an executable name of the application process residing on the network component.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the parameter name comprises an address used to communicate with the network component to invoke the application process.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the parameter name comprises an executable name of the application process residing on the network component.

47. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the parameter name comprises an address used to communicate with the network component to invoke the application process.

48. (Previously Presented) The non-transitory computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the parameter name comprises an executable name of the application process residing on the network component.